F.O.
371

CLOSED
UNTIL
1983

98504

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE. 1824/1

1952

Rev. Rees.
British Council of Churches to Mr. Evans.
18th Jan. 1952.

R. 2nd Jan.

Refugees.

Encloses a copy of a letter from Mr. S. A. Morrison, who has taken up work for the voluntary organizations in Beirut, Commenting on the British Council of Churches report of their meeting at the Foreign Office.

**Last Paper**
EE 18220/68 (1951)

**References**
EE 18220/53 (1951)

98504

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

**(Minutes)**

CO 5/1/52

**(Action completed)**

**(Index)**
fo 28/4

**Next Paper**

37330

Entered

HOLBORN 8571-2

THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

39 DOUGHTY STREET · LONDON · W.C.1

Jan 1st 1952

E

EE 1824/1

Dear Mr. Evans

I think you may like to see a copy of a letter from Mr. S.A. Morrison who has now taken up work for the voluntary organisations with H.Q. in Beirut. He refers to you. Do you remember him in Cairo?

I suppose this matter will soon come up at Paris. Is the Report of the Director published?

With all good wishes for the new year

Yours sincerely

R. D. Rees

Mr. T.E. Evans

The Foreign Office.

* copies of both reports sent to Mr Rees. CW 2/1

RECEIVED IN C.B.
-2 JAN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

P.O. Box 235,

Beirut,

Lebanon.

10th December, 1951.

The Rev. R.D. Rees,
British Council of Churches,
39, Doughty Street, W.C. 1.

My dear Rees,

I very much appreciate your sending me a copy of the report of your meeting at the F.O., which accompanied your letter of the 14th November. Incidentally, I know Mr. Evans well, as he was at one time in Cairo as private secretary to the Ambassador.

I have not yet met Sir Henry Knight, but I look forward to a talk with him in the near future. I am in very close touch with U.N.R.W.A. headquarters at Beirut, and Mr. Keen has offered me the use of an office there.

I have very few comments to make on your report. Briefly, they are as follows:-

1. Relief and Rehabilitation. It is true that the Egyptian Government undertakes to feed the economic refugees in the Gaza strip. As a matter of fact, the ration supplied by the Egyptian Government is about half of that given by U.N.R.W.A., which in turn is little more than half of what a full-grown man requires.

We certainly do try to keep in mind the needs of the economic refugees. If, however, the Jordan Government has not the money to do much in this way, much less have the Churches and the Christian voluntary agencies. Within the limits of our resources I think the C.V.A.s are doing all they can.

3. Responsibility for Re-integration. I understand that the attitude of the Lebanese Government is that whereas it is not prepared to permit re-integration schemes financed by U.N.R.W.A. it would not object to small re-integration projects financed and administered by the C.V.A.s.

The attitude of the Syrian Government is still uncertain. Privately members of the Cabinet will concede that re-integration is probably necessary, but publicly they are not prepared to risk the opposition of public opinion through voicing their own conviction.

I am not quite clear as to the reason why voluntary agencies having obtained the approval of the local Arab government for a re-integration scheme, should inform also, their own government. I appreciate the importance of keeping U.N.R.W.A. informed.

5. International Guarantee of Frontiers. I cannot quite understand the logic of the sentence which reads: "Minor frontier incidents, however, have not been regarded as grounds for invoking a declaration; and this has led the Arabs to have confidence in it." I should have thought that, on the contrary, it would have shaken the confidence of the Arabs in it.

7. Requirements for a long-range Programme. I may be wrong but I am not sure that the separation of relief work from the re-integration programme, and the handing of it over to a separate organisation, is essentially a step forward. We know that it is U.N.R.W.A.'s policy ultimately to transfer to the Arab governments responsibility for the educational and social activities in which U.N.R.W.A. is now engaged. This is an inevitable and ultimately desirable step. On the other hand, knowing as one does the weaknesses of the educational and social systems of these governments, one cannot but view with a certain degree of concern any programme which would expedite this process with undue haste.

I believe myself that the fact that U.N.R.W.A. is itself responsible for the relief programme makes it possible for it to put up schemes for re-integration without being too suspect. Even, however, as it is, there is considerable opposition in most of the refugee camps to any plans for re-integration on the grounds that they imply a surrender of the principle of repatriation. If U.N.R.W.A. were to be concerned with re-integration alone I am not at all sure that the psychological opposition of the refugees might not prove insurmountable. The only bodies which can put pressure on the refugees to accept re-integration are the Arab governments. Their collaboration in a re-integration programme is almost more important than their co-operation in a programme of relief.

I have passed on to you the line of my thinking at the present moment, but I am quite open to conviction on any of these points.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) S.A. MORRISON.

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE. 1824/3.

Mrs. H. Strauss MP to Mr. Hutting

8th Jan. 1952.

R. 9th Jan.

Arab Refugees.

Enquiry from constituent Miss Ida Hill.

Requests informative reply.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

CW 12/1

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

24) Mrs. Strauss MP from Mr. Hutting (encl) 10 Jan

(Action completed)

12/1

(Index)

28/4

Next Paper

37021

25, Cheyne Walk,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

8th January 1952.

I.P.S. 9/1
2.M.E.S.

Ackd. 9/1

EE.1824/3.

Dear Anthony,

I enclose a letter which I have received from Miss Ida Hill about Arab Refugees, and shall be grateful if you will advise me how to reply.

Yours ever
Henry Usborne

Encl.

Anthony Nutting, Esq., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

See jacket

+ 1 copy pse

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

December, 1951.

E.G.1824/3.

Draft

Letter

to Henry Strauss

~~R.W. Jenkins~~, Esq.,
M.P.,
House of Commons.

From:

Mr. Nutting

Thank you for your letter of ~~November 30th~~ Jan. 8th, with which you enclose a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum? You may also find it useful to refer to the Foreign Secretary's remarks in winding up the foreign affairs debate on November 20th 1951 (Hansard column 344) and to the statement on the Arab refugee problem which I made in the House at Question time on November 28th 1951. (Hansard column 1500).

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

CW 9/1

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
- 9 JAN 1952
SENT TO TYPE 9/1
DESPATCHED

(EE 1824/3

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

10th January, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of the 8th January, with which you enclosed a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that y u should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum? You may also find it useful to refer to the Foreign Secretary's remarks in winding up the foreign affairs debate on November 20th, 1951 (Hansard column 344) and to the statement on the Arab refugee problem which I made in the House at Question time on November 28th 1951, (Hansard column 1500).

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary).

Henry G. Strauss, Esq., K.C., M.P.,
Board of Trade.

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE. 1824/5.

Chancery Washington to Eastern Dept.

1820/3/52 of 4th January 52.

Rec'd. 10th Jan.

Arab Refugees.

Encloses 6 copies of a booklet entitled "The Arab Refugee Problem — How it can be Solved" received from Miss Freda Kirchwey of "The Nation".

**Last Paper**

**References**

-/4.

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

Dft) Chancery W'ton from E Dept. 12 Jan

**(Minutes)**

Copies have been sent direct to the Parliamentary Under Secretary & to the Minister of Health. They have presumably also been sent to the S. of S. in Washington & to the Minister of State in Paris.

Unless it is felt that direct acknowledgements should be sent, we would propose to reply through H.M. Embassy in Washington in non-committal terms.

Draft herewith

[signature] 11/1

Mr Wilford
Mr Kilkie } first.

[signature] 11/1

**(Action completed)**

[signature] 23/1

**(Index)**

[signature] 23/3/50

**Next Paper**

37330

E

BY AIR FREIGHT
RESTRICTED
1820/3/52

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON

4 January, 1952

EE 1824/5

Dear Department,

In Division

See /4

In case you have not already received it, we are enclosing six copies of a booklet entitled: "The Arab Refugee Problem - How it Can be Solved", which has been sent to the Ambassador by Miss Freda Kirchwey of "The Nation", with the request that it be forwarded to you.

2. As you may imagine from the fact that Miss Kirchwey is connected with it, the booklet advocates a largely Zionist solution of the problem and the State Department have told the Israeli Embassy here that the submission of these proposals to the General Assembly is not likely to be a useful solution of the Arab refugee problem. We believe that the Israeli Embassy are, in fact, somewhat embarrassed by the submission of the proposals in this way.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
10 JAN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
6

Registry
No. EE1824/5.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

*Draft.*

Chancery,
Washington

from

Eastern Dept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

11/1

Mr Wilford
Mr Killick } first.

11/1

7 copies
OUTFILE

12/1

Dear Chancery,

We have read the booklet sent with your letter no 1820/3/52 of 4th January on the Arab Refugees. It contains some useful facts & figures but we agree that it is too openly pro-Zionist to be of much use.

Copies have also been received direct by the (Secretary of State, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, ~~and~~ the Minister of Health and possibly other Ministers.)

We should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of these in non-committal terms, saying that the views expressed therein have been read with interest.

Yours ever

Eastern Dept.

11/1

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
12 JAN 1952
SENT TO TAE | 12/1
DESPATCHED

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

(EE 1824/5)

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

12th January, 1952.

OUTFILE

Dear Chancery,

We have read the booklet sent with your letter No. 1820/3/52 of 4th January on the Arab Refugees. It contains some useful facts and figures but we agree that it is too openly pro-Zionist to be of much use.

Copies have also been received direct by the Secretary of State, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, the Minister of Health and possibly other Ministers. We should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of these in non-committal terms, saying that the views expressed therein have been read with interest.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E ~~E~~ 1824/6.

Mr. Toogood
Minister of Labour
to Miss Waterlow
AR 1172/52.
11th January 52.

R 15th Jan.

Emile Boutagy's suggestion that Arab Refugees might be employed in the U.K. Does not think it would be practical and mentions a few points which must be considered before foreign labour can be made use of.

**Last Paper**

**References**

EE 18220/59 (1951)
EE 1821/128 (1951)

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

8) Copied to:-
Chanceries at
Amman + BMEO Cairo
Mr. Meyers, Beirut
29th Jan.

**(Action completed)** 29/1

**(Index)** 28/4

**Next Paper**

**(Minutes)**

Copy for inf. to Chanceries Amman, (ref. their letter on EE 1821/128) BMEO & Tel Aviv, & to Mr Myers at Beirut.

Labour Adviser first for any obs.

Waterlow
17/1

I am afraid that what Mr. Toogood says is only too true — except his absurd reference to all refugees passionately hating us.

These refugees will be a useful pool of manpower if & when a Middle East defence pact comes to pass. They ought to be used now in the Canal Zone, & would be — I suppose — were it not for the refusal of exit permits for this purpose. Their future must await some imaginative solution of the M-East defence & development problems. Meanwhile they lie & not.

F.C. Mason
22/1

Ow 23/1

37330

Ente

Any *further* communication should be addressed to :—

THE SECRETARY

And the following letter and number should be quoted :—

AR 1172/52

Telephone number : TRA.7020

Ext. 218

Your Reference :

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE,
32/33 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.I.

EE 1824/6

11th January, 1952.

Dear Miss Waterlow,

I am replying to your letter of 3/12/51 ref: EE 18220/59 on the suggestion of Mr. Emile Boutagy that Arab refugees might be recruited for employment in this country.

We felt that for a number of reasons this proposal was a non-starter, but we thought it would be useful to secure the views of the Labour Attaches in Tel Aviv and Cairo. While we have not yet received a reply from Cairo we gather that Mr. Boutagy is regarded in the Legation at Tel Aviv as an unmitigated nuisance who should not be taken seriously!

However I think you would like me to set out a few of the practical considerations from the point of view of U.K. employers and this Department. Before any question of importing foreign labour for oue under-manned industries is considered, we require to satisfy ourselves on three things e.g. (a) that suitable British workers are not available (b) that the appropriate trade unions have no objections to the recruitment of foreign labour in general or to the nationals of a particular country, and (c) that suitable living accommodation is available. Even if these three requirements are satisfied (and we are having enough difficulties and prejudices to overcome with regard to Italians, let alone Arab refugees) our experience is that employers are not prepared to engage foreign labour unless they can send out their own recruiting mission, more especially if they have to pay the cost of the passages of those

/recruited

Miss C.M. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

16

RECEIVED IN C.B.
15 JAN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

recruited. Such employers therefore have to be convinced that there is an adequate pool of suitable labour available before they will contemplate such heavy costs. Frankly, we can see no hope of convincing British employers on this score, especially when we consider all the difficulties of language, illiteracy, habits and way of life, religion, accommodation and climate - to mention only some.

Added to all this is surely the point that most of the Arab refugees passionately hate the Western powers, and would scarcely be willing or reliable volunteers.

If the reply from Cairo differs from anyting I have already said - which I do not anticipate - I will let you know. Meanwhile I think we must discourage any ideas that Arab refugees are likely to make any contribution to the solution of the U.K. manpower shortage.

Yours sincerely,

(E.J. Toogood)

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE. 1824/7.

Mr. GRAEME FINLAY. MP. to Mr. Nutting. 15th January 52. Rec'd. 17th Jan.

Arab Refugees.

Letters from M.P.s based on enquiries from constituents.

OMNIBUS

**Last Paper**

**References**

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

Dft(s) Graeme Finlay MP. Gordon Touche MP. (from Mr. Nutting) 17 Jan.

Dft) Sir A. Hudson MP. from Mr. Nutting 24th Jan

Dft) Sir O. Darling from Mr. Nutting 24th Jan

Dft) Mr. J. Rodgers, M.P. (from Mr Nutting) 29 Jan

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
|---|---|
| 23/1 31/1 | 28/4 |

**Next Paper**

**(Minutes)**

A) Mr. Gordon C. Touche MP to Mr. Nutting of 14th Jan.

EW 22/1

[B] Sir A. Hudson, M.P. to Mr Nutting of 22 Jan.

[C] Colonial Office of 15 Jan. [Sir W. Darling, M.P. of 28/12/51]

EW 30/1

[D] Mr. J.C. Rodgers, M.P. to Mr Nutting of 23 January.

EW 31/1

1824/9.

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

*Draft.*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(42023) WT.41304/225 150,000
2/51 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

Letters from MPs about Arab Refugees. pw Epp.

1. John Rogers M.P. (A no. of enquiries from constituents.)

2. Harold MacMillan – letter from Miss M. M. Kidd.

3. Gerald Williams, M.P. – letter from J. K. Warner.

4. Kenneth Pickthorn M.P. – letter from Rev. Stephen Verney.

5 Mr Edward Evans MP. – letters from Miss Janet Lloyd.
Miss Rachel Lloyd.

6. Lt. Cdr. J. G. Braithwaite, M.P.

7. John Freeman, M.P – letter from Miss Gill.

8. Lord Hinchinbrooke, MP – letter from Miss Pigeon.

9. Percy Collick M.P – letter from Miss Grinwood.

10. ~~Antony Nutting~~, MP – Hamilton Kerr – letter from Lilian Heaton.

11. Lynn Ungoed-Thomas, M.P. letter from Mr Smith.

12. Letter to Miss Horsbrough from a Miss W. Hill.

13. Sir Waldron Smithers to Mr Nutting – letter from Rev. J M W Adam.

14. E. Bullus Esq MP – letter from Miss M.H. Beaver.

15. Cyril Black MP from Miss M. Wake.

16. A. Bottomley, M.P – letter from Miss Nedman.

17. Sir Herbert Williams, M.P. – letter from Rev. S. J. King.

18 Cdr. Allan Noble – letter from Mr John Lawrence.

19 Harmer Nicholls, J.P, M.P. – letter from Rev. W.H. Holdsworth.

20. Miss P. Hornsby-Smith – letters from several constituents.

21. Arthur S. Moody M.P – letter from Miss W.B. Robinson.

22. G R H Nugent, M.P. – letter from Miss McNeile.

23. Basil Nield, MBE, KC, MP. letter from L D Browne.

24. A.G. Bottomley, M.P. – letter from Miss Hulland.

25. Lt Col. J.C. Lockwood JP, M.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

26. Lt Col Sir W. Smiles, CIE, DSO, M.P.

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

*Draft.*

27. Mr A.C. Bossom, M.P. – letter from Mr Kendel Smith

28. Peter Crowder MP.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(36301) Wt.21356/164 250,000 8/48
(37532) Wt.42418/178 250,000 2/49
A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

HOUSE OF COMMONS

1.P.S.
2.M.E.S

EE 1824/7

Ack. 16/1.

15th January, 1952.

Dear Parliamentary Under Secretary,

I have received a letter from a constituent of mine, Mrs. D.S. Tomkin of 47 Mornington Road, Chingford, E.4., on the subject of the rehabilitation of Arab Refugees.

I enclose an extract from this letter upon which I shall be grateful to have your observations in order that I may reply to Mrs. Tomkin.

I notice she mentions the question of the freezing of personal bank accounts in Israel belonging to refugees and the denial of compensation for properties that have been requisitioned and appropriated.

Yours sincerely,

G.S. Tomkin

Dictated by GRAEME FINLAY
& signed in his absence.

H. A. Nutting Esq., M.P.,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Extract from letter received by GRAEME FINLAY
from Mrs. Tomkin.

Arab Refugees.

I am very interested and deeply concerned in this problem and feel that something effective should be done for these people. I do hope that His Majesty's Government will give a strong lead when the matter comes up again at the United Nations.

The only real solution seems a really large scale programme of rehabilitation, but I also hope that funds may be made available to the voluntary agencies already doing such a wonderful work with such a personal touch.

It also seems unjust that personal bank accounts in Israel of refugees should be frozen, and that compensation should be denied for properties that have been requisitioned and appropriated, or, as we understand is the case with much property belonging to the Arab Churches, release from control should be refused.

We do realise that these matters are under consideration at the United Nations, but we would like to see the Government giving a lead that the matter is urgent.

OUTFILE

EE 1824/7.

X 1 copy.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

~~December~~, 1952.
Jan.

Draft

Letter

Groeme Finlay
~~R.M. Jenkins~~, Esq,
M.P.,
House of Commons.

From:

Mr. Nutting

Copy attached

Thank you for your letter of ~~November 30th~~ Jan. 15th, with which you enclose an extract from a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum? ~~You may also find it useful~~ to refer to the Foreign Secretary's remarks in winding up the foreign affairs debate on November 20th (Hansard column 344) and to the statement on the Arab refugee problem which I made in the House at Question time on November 28th (Hansard column 1500).

[illegible] 16/1

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE
S.W.1.

17th January, 1952.

(EE 1824/7)

Thank you for your letter of the 15th January, with which you enclose an extract from a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum?

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

Graeme Finlay, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

Memorandum

His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. They agree that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees to Israel and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. His Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until last year's session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term works projects) to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. Moreover, the problem has hitherto been tackled on a yearly basis. The Agency has now submitted a three year programme to the Assembly, estimated to cost £ 250 million (£200 for resettlement and £50 for relief). If member Governments will now offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to £50 million for the current year), and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

It has been suggested that funds should be made available to voluntary agencies for the carrying out of approved projects. His Majesty's Government are in full agreement regarding the great importance of the part which the voluntary societies can play in assisting the refugees and are anxious to give them every encouragement. The work of the voluntary societies is also greatly valued by the Agency, which has, where possible, given them material assistance. Unfortunately, however, the funds so far available to the Agency have been limited.

The question of compensation and of the unfreezing of refugees' bank accounts is a particularly thorny one. The position is that at last year's meeting of the General Assembly it proved possible, for the first time, to make practical arrangements for tackling this question. A Resolution of the 14th December, 1950, directed the Palestine Conciliation Committee to set up an Office with the task of making detailed arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation.

/This

This Office has now assessed the total value of abandoned Arab land in Israel at £100 million. In their Report to the Assembly the Palestine Conciliation Commission has recommended that the Government of Israel should accept the obligation to pay a global sum based on this assessment and that a detailed plan should now be worked out by that Government with the United Nations. This Report is now being debated at the Assembly.

His Majesty's Government will, at the present session of the Assembly, do everything possible to secure a satisfactory solution to the refugee problem.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

Nothing to be W

2 drafts

I submit a draft reply to Mr Gordon Touche's letter to Mr Maltby. The Memorandum (a revised version of our earlier one) has been agreed with E. Dept.

P Walalw
16/1

Mr Killick MJ.
17/1

14 Jan 52

HOUSE OF COMMONS

*To :—*

Under Secretary of State

My dear Nutting

1. P.S.
2. M.E.S.

Ackd 15/1

I enclose correspondence from

Mr A.R. Hyde of Darby

I shall be grateful if you will give the matter your attention, and send me a reply that I can forward to my constituent.

Please [do not] acknowledge.

Yours ever and
Gordon L. Touche

EE. 1824/7 (PW A')

COPY

(EE 1824/7)

DORKING COMMITTEE FOR AID TO REFUGEES AND OTHER DISTRESSED PERSONS

Acting Chairman :

A. R. Hyde,
Hillride,
Reigate Road,
Dorking.

12. 1. 52.

Dear Mr. Touche,

Arab Refugees (Moslem and Christian)

In the second place we have been trying to do something for these - perhaps the neediest and most hopeless of people, nearly a million of them, this side of Korea. We have through the generosity of the givers been able to send a considerable quantity of clothes etc. But what is wanted much more are the will and the means to enable these people to be rehabilitated. In fact I hope to sail to Beirut myself next week to enquire how help can best be given voluntarily on this side of the problem. I need not trouble you with details; but it is not quite a jump in the dark that I am meditating, as a friend of mine in Beirut who is now Secretary of the Inter Church Committee for Refugee work favours my going.

This brings me to the main point of my letter which is that, as I understand, these unfortunate refugees (increasing numbers of whom are beginning to realise that they can never again hope to regain their lost homes and lands in what is now Israel) are unable to obtain any compensation for what they have lost; even personal banking accounts are frozen; and property belonging to the Arab Christian Churches is refused release from control.

I shall soon know more about these matters! But in the meantime may I ask that you will (sure as we are of your sympathy) use your best influence with our Government to secure -

(1) Urgent action and provision of funds through the United Nations and UNRWA for works of permanent rehabilitation, whether wholly official or in part voluntary.

(2) The speedy settlement of just claims for compensation and unfreezing of monies etc. rightly due to these refugees.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Arthur R. Hyde.

A.R. HYDE.

2 drafts

OUTFILE

+ 1 copy

17/1

17/3

Registry
No. EE 1824/7.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

C.M.W.

*Draft.* Letter

Gordon C. Touche,
Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

(from: ---

Mr. Nutting)

M.J.
17/1

EW at a low
16/1

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1952.

1 copy of inward letter please

You sent me on January 14th a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed Memorandum? You may also care to inform him that the Foreign Office are in close touch with the World Council of Churches and the British Council of Churches and, through them, with the ~~Secretary of the Inter-Church Committee for Refugee Work,~~ representative who has now been appointed to Beirut to co-ordinate the voluntary work of the churches for the relief of the refugees.

I return ~~to~~ your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

x Toker x

EW 17/1

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
17 JAN 1952
SENT TO TYPE 17/1
DESPATCHED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

(EE 1824/7) 17th January, 1952.

You sent me on the 14th January a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed Memorandum? You may also care to inform him that the Foreign Office are in close touch with the World Council of Churches and the British Council of Churches and, through them, with the representative who has now been appointed to Beirut to co-ordinate the voluntary work of the churches for the relief of the refugees.

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

Gordon C. Touche, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

From Sir Austin Hudson, Bt. M.P.

[B]

TELEPHONE,
CENTRAL 6565.

28, ESSEX STREET,
STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.2.

1. PS
2. MES.
Ackd. 28/1

22nd January 1952.

A. Nutting Esq., M.P.
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

INDEXED

EE1824/7

Dear Nutting,

The attached letter from a Constituent, Mrs. M. K. Warren of 15, Eliot Vale, S. E. 3, raises the question of Arab refugees.

I wonder if you would be so good as to let me have a statement of the present position in regard to this problem.

Yours sincerely,

Austin Hudson.

COPY

(EE 1824/7)

15, Eliot Vale,
Blackheath,
S.E.3.

December, 1951.

Dear Sir,

I am writing as one of many who are greatly concerned that something effective should be done for the Arab Refugees. I would ask you to use all your influence with His Majesty's Government to give a strong lead when the matter next comes up at the United Nations.

We do sincerely hope that funds will be available for the assistance of approved projects in the hands of voluntary agencies which can best, as a rule, supply that personal touch which the refugee so deeply appreciates.

We would like our Government to feel the urgency of this matter.

I venture to write to you on this matter, believing you will use your influence.

Believe me,
truly yours

M. K. Warren. (Mrs.)

23/4 23/5

2 pp

to

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

~~December~~, 1951.
Jan 1952

EE1824/7

Letter

Sir Austin Hudson

~~R.E. Jenkins, Esq,~~
Bt, M.P.,
House of Commons.

From:

Mr. Nutting

January 22nd.

Thank you for your letter of ~~November~~ 30th, with which you enclose a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum? ~~You may also find it useful~~ to refer to the Foreign Secretary's remarks in winding up the foreign affairs debate on November 20th (Hansard column 344) and to the statement on the Arab refugee problem which I made in the House at Question time on November 28th (~~Hansard col. n 1500~~).

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

CW 23/1

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
23 JAN 1952
SENT TO TYPE 23/1
DESPATCHED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 1824/7)

24th January, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd January, with which you enclose a letter from one of your constituents about the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to your constituent on the lines of the enclosed memorandum?

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

Sir Austin Hudson, Bt. M.P.,
House of Commons.

Memorandum

His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. They agree that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees to Israel and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. His Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until ~~last year's~~ 1950-2's session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term works projects) to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. Moreover, the problem has hitherto been tackled on a yearly basis. The Agency has now submitted a three year programme to the Assembly, estimated to cost £ 250 million (£200 for resettlement and £50 for relief). If member Governments will now offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to £50 million for the current year), and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

It has been suggested that funds should be made available to voluntary agencies for the carrying out of approved projects. His Majesty's Government are in full agreement regarding the great importance of the part which the voluntary societies can play in assisting the refugees and are anxious to give them every encouragement. The work of the voluntary societies is also greatly valued by the Agency, which has, where possible, given them material assistance. Unfortunately, however, the funds so far available to the Agency have been limited.

The question of compensation and of the unfreezing of refugees' bank accounts is a particularly thorny one. The position is that at ~~last year's~~ 1950-51's meeting of the General Assembly it proved possible, for the first time, to make practical arrangements for tackling this question. A Resolution of the 14th December, 1950, directed the Palestine Conciliation Committee to set up an Office with the task of making detailed arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation.

/This

This Office has now assessed the total value of abandoned Arab land in Israel at £100 million. In their Report to the Assembly the Palestine Conciliation Commission has recommended that the Government of Israel should accept the obligation to pay a global sum based on this assessment and that a detailed plan should now be worked out by that Government with the United Nations. This Report is now being debated at the Assembly.

His Majesty's Government will, at the present session of the Assembly, do everything possible to secure a satisfactory solution to the refugee problem.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

African Dept
Eastern Dept
C.L.D.

COLONIAL OFFICE
The Church House
Great Smith Street
S.W.1.

15th January, 1952.

*With the Compliments of the Private*

*Secretary to the Secretary of State*

*for the Colonies*

INDEXED

EE 1824/7

Copy

28th December, 1951.

Rt. Hon. Oliver Lyttelton, D.S.O., M.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Church House,
Gt. Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Oliver,

Enclosed is a transcription of some notes I have received from an informed and interested party regarding African problems.

I shall be glad if you will favour me with your comments. I have already indicated that there are, of course, other points of view than those expressed by my correspondent.

Yours truly

(sgd.) William Darling.

Copy

Notes regarding African Problems.

(1) Arab Refugees in the Middle East, especially in Jordan.

When this matter comes up again at the United Nations I do hope that His Majesty's Government will take a definite stand and give a strong lead. It would be good if U.N. agencies could carry out a large-scale programme of re-habilitation expensive though this may be. This would seem to be more hopeful and practicable than plans for re-instating refugee Arabs in Israel. But what is in some ways more important even than U.N. work is that voluntary agencies, which can often best supply the personal touch which the refugee so deeply appreciates, should receive every encouragement.

There are three terrible injustices which we as British citizens must try to obliterate - although it may involve interfering with the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

(1) That the personal bank accounts in Israel of refugees should be frozen, as they are.

(11) That there should be no compensation for properties that have been requisitioned and appropriated.

(111) That release from control of certain properties (e.g. some mosques and Christian Churches) should be refused.

Many Arabs are selling their children to get money to buy clothes. I know of a student in the university here who was offered such children.

We would like to see the Government giving a lead in tackling this.

/(2)

(2) Federation in Central Africa.

I can heartily assure you that if we try to implement the plan outlined in last June White Paper there will emerge a more bitter and resentful nationalism than we have yet seen in Central Africa. The statistician, the demographer the economist and the planner are all impressed by the proposals - especially if they are viewing them from the U.K. I must admit that many good points are made, e.g. increasing borrowing powers for development economies in administration, transport, posts, telegraphs, etc. Yet the ugly fact remains - and it is of paramount importance that the Native Policy of Southern Rhodesia is more illiberal than that of either Nyasaland or N. Rhodesia whose effective loci of sovereignty are in Whitehall. If it be assured that there are "safeguards" a sufficient reply is to point to the entrenched clauses worked out in respect of S. Africa at the beginning of the century. How effective have they been? There is much more that could be said on the point. I would earnestly plead with you to use all your power (a) to have these plans drastically revised (b) to make the positive - and I believe creative - recommendations (1) that there be a similar federal scheme between Nyasaland and N. Rhodesia only and (11) that the Central Africa Council have its powers and duties more clearly defined and slightly extended.

CAA 19/1/04

15th January, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of 28th December with which you sent me a copy of some notes you had received from a correspondent about the Arab refugee problem and about federation in Central Africa. The first of these is a question for the Foreign Office, to whom a copy of your letter and the note is being forwarded.

I should, of course, have much preferred to know the name and status of your correspondent, but I will nevertheless give you my comments on his views in the proposals for federation in Central Africa, I was pleased to note that he is at any rate prepared to admit the force of the economic arguments in favour of the scheme. We should all agree that it is impossible to build a stable political society except on a sound economic foundation such as none of the present Central African territories (except possibly Southern Rhodesia) can provide in isolation. Together, they would constitute an economic unit capable of supporting a stable political society.

Economic weakness, however, is not the only cause of political instability and your correspondent is right in insisting on the importance of race relations and native policies in these plural societies of East and Central Africa. This aspect received most careful consideration by the officials at their conference in March 1951 (most of them, men with long experience of the territories concerned) and it is fully discussed in their reports (Cmd. 8233 and Cmd. 8235). Your correspondent alleged that Southern Rhodesian native policy was "more illiberal" than that of the two northern territories.

/The

Sir W. Darling, C.B.E., M.P.

The officials' conference acknowledged that there were differences between the territories but held that "the ultimate aim of policy in each territory is to advance the African to the stage where he is in all respects a full partner, exercising all the rights and accepting all the responsibilties of citizenship" and that such differences as exist are largely of method and timing. Furthermore, it is a main aim of the proposals to secure that native policy remains the concern of the territorial as against, the federal Government, and that in the case of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland the territorial Governments remain responsible to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. In the "effective loci of sovereignty", (to use your correspondent's ghastly phrase) would remain in Whitehall.

The conference of officials also considered with great care the safeguards, and made special recommendations designed to meet the circumstances of Central Africa. I cannot accept your correspondent's suggestion that because the "entrenched clauses" in the South African Constitution have been abrogated, all safeguards in all constitutions are therefore ineffective.

Your correspondent's suggestions for an alternative solution are, I am afraid, inadequate and unrealistic. There would be little point in a Federation consisting of only Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, whose economies and system of communications are less related to each other than both are related to those of Southern Rhodesia. As for his suggestion that the Central African Council should have its powers and duties "more clearly defined and slightly extended", the officials reported those who have been most closely concerned with the working of the Council believe that an advisory body can

by itself do nothing further of value to promote collaboration between the individual Governments". I do not consider that a clearer definition of the Council powers or slight extension of its duties could overcome its manifest weakness - namely the lack of effective executive machinery directly subject to Parliamentary control.

The Scottish version of quot homines, tot sententia at the end of your letter is noted.

Registry
No. EE 1824/7.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

C.M.W.

+ 1 copy

24/4
24/5

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1952.

Edn

*Draft.* Letter to:

Sir W. Darling,
C.B.E., M.P.,
House of Commons.

(from:

Mr. Nutting)

Oliver Lyttelton has sent me a copy of your letter of December 28th to him, with which you enclosed some notes received from a correspondent about the Arab refugee problem.

The enclosed memorandum, which describes ~~His Majesty's~~ the Government's policy on this problem, will, I think, give you the material you need for replying to your correspondent. We have just heard, since the memorandum was drafted, that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's 3-year programme has been unanimously accepted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the Assembly, and we hope that this satisfactory decision will shortly be endorsed at the plenary session of the Assembly.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

Cw. 23/1

Cwatalw
22/1

Mr Killick
MJ.
22/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
23 JAN 1952
SENT TO TYPE 24 1
DESPATCHED

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

25th January, 1952.

(RE 1824/7)

Oliver Lyttelton has sent me a copy of your letter of December 28th to him, with which you enclosed some notes received from a correspondent about the Arab refugee problem.

The enclosed memorandum, which describes the Government's policy on this problem, will, I think, give you the material you need for replying to your correspondent. We have just heard, since the memorandum was drafted, that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's 5-year programme has been unanimously accepted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the Assembly, and we hope that this satisfactory decision will shortly be endorsed at the plenary session of the Assembly.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

Sir William Darling, C.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
House of Commons.

Memorandum

His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. They agree that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees to Israel and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. His Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until ~~last year's~~ 1950-51's session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term works projects) to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. Moreover, the problem has hitherto been tackled on a yearly basis. The Agency has now submitted a three year programme to the Assembly, estimated to cost £ 250 million (£200 for resettlement and £50 for relief). If member Governments will now offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to £50 million for the current year), and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

It has been suggested that funds should be made available to voluntary agencies for the carrying out of approved projects. His Majesty's Government are in full agreement regarding the great importance of the part which the voluntary societies can play in assisting the refugees and are anxious to give them every encouragement. The work of the voluntary societies is also greatly valued by the Agency, which has, where possible, given them material assistance. Unfortunately, however, the funds so far available to the Agency have been limited.

The question of compensation and of the unfreezing of refugees' bank accounts is a particularly thorny one. The position is that at ~~last year's~~ 1950-51's meeting of the General Assembly it proved possible, for the first time, to make practical arrangements for tackling this question. A Resolution of the 14th December, 1950, directed the Palestine Conciliation Committee to set up an Office with the task of making detailed arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation.

/This

This Office has now assessed the total value of abandoned Arab land in Israel at £100 million. In their Report to the Assembly the Palestine Conciliation Commission has recommended that the Government of Israel should accept the obligation to pay a global sum based on this assessment and that a detailed plan should now be worked out by that Government with the United Nations. This Report is now being debated at the Assembly.

His Majesty's Government will, at the present session of the Assembly, do everything possible to secure a satisfactory solution to the refugee problem.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

I submit a draft reply to the attached letter from Mr John Rodgers, MP, to Mr Nutting.

C. Waterlow
24/1

1. E Dept (Mr Oliver) ✓ C.
2. Mr Killick ✓

[illegible] 28/1

If, as we hope, the resolution on refugees is passed in Plenary tomorrow, a slight amendment may be needed in the passage at 'A' by the time the letter issues

[illegible] 25/1.

Nothing to be Wri

1. P.S. 16k 24/1
2. MES.

[D]

40, Berkeley Square,

Ackd 24/1

London, W. 1.

23rd January, 1952.

EE 182.4/7

INDEXED

Dear Anthony Nutting,

I enclose a letter from one of my constituents. I would be glad if your department would give me their comments on this.

Yours sincerely,

John Rodgers

A nthony Nutting, Esquire, M.P.,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
S.W. 1.

Registry
No. EE1824/7

OUTFILE

28/4
29/12

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29 January, 1952.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

C.M.W.

*Draft.* Letter to:

C.
John Rodgers,
Esq., M.P.,
40 Berkeley Square,
W.1.

(from:

Mr. Nutting)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.




Thank you for your letter of January 23rd with which you enclose a letter from Mr. E.A. Graham, the Vicar of Edenbridge, quoting certain comments made by Bishop J.V. Macmillan on the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to Mr. Graham on the following lines?

1. His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. This is, however, in their view, a grave human problem which cannot be solved by the action of any one Power alone. They therefore took the initiative in urging the United Nations General Assembly of 1948 to assume responsibility for the relief of the refugees. They agree with the Bishop that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. His Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until the 1950-51 session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term

/works

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S.St.

works projects) to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. ~~On the basis of the Resolution~~ A start has been made~~, for the first time, during 1951 with resettlement projects~~ in Jordan and in the Sinai Peninsular. In Jordan (where the economic possibilities of absorbing the refugees are, however, as the Bishop points out, limited) the Agency is at present carrying out a number of small-scale projects, which will, it is estimated, resettle some 10,000 people. In addition, geophysical and land surveys are being carried out in the Shera'a area with a view to the resettlement of a larger number there. In the Sinai Peninsular some 50,000 refugees could, it is estimated, be settled, if surveys which are at present being carried out prove that water is available. The possibilities of resettlement in Libya have been explored, but unfortunately at the most only a few hundred families could be absorbed.

/3. ...

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

[A]

3. Hitherto the problem has been tackled on a yearly basis. The Agency has now submitted a three-year programme to the Assembly, estimated to cost $250 million ($200 million for resettlement and $50 million for relief). This programme, which has been sponsored by His Majesty's Government, ~~has now been~~ had endorsed by the Ad Hoc Committee and ~~will shortly, it is hoped,~~ has now received the approval of the Plenary ~~session~~. If member governments will now offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to $50 million, and His Majesty's Government £4.2 million, for the current year) and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

4. In conclusion I should like to add that we agree fully with Bishop Macmillan on the importance of keeping the British public informed about this ~~tragic~~ problem. We are doing all we can from the Foreign Office to arrange publicity through our News and Information Departments, and the Agency themselves now have a ~~special~~ Public Relations Department. In this connexion it may interest the Bishop to know that two broadcast appeals made by Sir Ronald Storrs in January and November of last year for second-hand clothing for the refugees produced ~~almost~~ astonishing response; ~~and~~ no less than 37,000 parcels of clothing ~~have~~ ~~been~~ have sent to the British Red Cross Society for despatch to the refugees in Jordan.

I return your enclosure herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

(EE 1824/7)

29th January, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of January 23rd with which you enclose a letter from Mr. E.A. Graham, the Vicar of Edenbridge, quoting certain comments made by Bishop J.V. Macmillan on the Arab refugee problem. May I suggest that you should reply to Mr. Graham on the following lines?

His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. This is, however, in their view, a grave human problem which cannot be solved by the action of any one Power alone. They therefore took the initiative in urging the United Nations General Assembly of 1948 to assume responsibility for the relief of the refugees. They agree with the Bishop that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. His Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on

/political

John C. Rodgers, Esq., M.P.,
~~30~~ 40, Berkeley Square,
W.1.

olitical grounds of the Arab States: it was not until the 1950-51 session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term works projects) to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. A start has been made in Jordan and in the Sinai Peninsular. In Jordan (where the economic possibilities of absorbing the refugees are, however, as the Bishop points out, limited) the Agency is at present carrying out a number of small-scale projects, which will, it is estimated, resettle some 10,000 people. In addition, geophysical and land surveys are being carried out in the Shera'a area with a view to the resettlement of a larger number there. In the Sinai Peninsular some 50,000 refugees could, it is estimated, be settled, if surveys which are at present being carried out prove that water is available. The possibilities of resettlement in Libya have been explored, but unfortunately at the most only a few hundred families could be absorbed.

/Hitherto

Hitherto the problem has been tackled on a yearly basis. The Agency has now submitted a three-year programme to the Assembly estimated to cost $250 million ($200 million for resettlement and $50 million for relief). This programme, which has been sponsored by His Majesty's Government, was endorsed by the Ad Hoc Committee and has now received the approval of the Plenary. If member governments will now offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to $50 million, and His Majesty's Government £4.2 million, for the current year) and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

In conclusion I should like to add that we agree fully with Bishop Macmillan on the importance of keeping the British public informed about this problem. We are doing all we can from the Foreign Office to arrange publicity through our News and Information Departments, and the Agency themselves now have a Public Relations Department. In this connexion it may interest the Bishop to know that two broadcast appeals made by Sir Ronald Storrs in January and November of last year for second-hand clothing for the refugees produced an astonishing response; no less than 37,000 parcels of clothing were sent to the British Red Cross Society for despatch to the refugees in Jordan.

I return your enclosure herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E E 1824/8.

Mrs Lawrence Turner M.P. to Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

D. 7th January.

R. 7th February.

Arab Refugees:-

Requests information regarding Government policy.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

References

A Mrs. Lawrence Turner to Mr Selwyn Lloyd 23rd Jan.

CW 8/2

(Print)

(How disposed of)

D/t). Mrs Lawrence Turner M.P. from Mr Selwyn Lloyd. 16th Jan.

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
| --- | --- |
| JM 9.9/2. | p 28/4 |

Next Paper

Minutes.

E

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

I submit a draft reply to Mr. Laurence Turner's letter (attached) to the Minister of State.

C. M. Waterlow.

(C. M. Waterlow)
Middle East Secretariat

9th January, 1952.

Mr. J.E. Reeve

I wonder if you could add a little local colour to the draft in light of recent discussion?

J Reeve. 14/1

Sir H. Knight.

Perhaps a paragraph somewhat on following lines might be added:

" We

*Minutes.*

*

"We have just had a week's acrimonious political debate in the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the United Nations, in which the Arabs have ostentatiously and ostensibly refused to consider any solution of the refugee problem except return of the refugees to their homes in Palestine, and the Israelis have refused to consider such return. This discussion should now be followed by that of the ~~UNRWA~~ reporting this (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) ~~report~~ which proposes to separate the present plight of the Arab refugees from the political questions at issue and to provide all the refugees with homes and jobs elsewhere than in Israel within a period of three years. This will be "without prejudice to the refugees' rights to repatriation and/or compensation",

so that if the political question should at any time be settled in the refugees' favour they could then return home. ~~Of course,~~ In reality the Arab States realize that few if any of the Arabs will ever return to Palestine, but they are of course unable publicly to give up their claim to this. But acceptance of the UNRWA scheme would not commit them to such renunciation.

Whether the UNRWA scheme will be accepted by the United Nations, of course, one cannot say. *

( H.F. Knight)
14.I.52

I attach spare copy of Director + Adcam's report mentioned above.

H.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

1. Ack'd 8/1/52
2. UNE Dept for draft reply.
MES, I think answer

7th January 1952.

Enlr

HOUSE OF COMMONS
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE

FOREIGN OFFICE
8 - JAN 1952
RECEIVED

EE 1824/8.

Dear Lloyd,

I wonder if amidst your many preoccupations you could advise me about the position of displaced Arabs. Many wellmeaning people listened to a New Year's Day broadcast of 'No Room at the Inn' and have in consequence been worked up to a passionate if temporary zeal for the cause of Arab refugees and most of such wellmeaning persons live in Oxford.

I have obtained some information on the subject, but gather that such responsibility as there is for these unfortunate people now rests with the United Nations, and I would appreciate it if you would let me know what official Government policy is about this problem.

With my very best wishes for the New Year and congratulations on your personal success in Paris.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Turner.

The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, KC M.P.,
Foreign Office.

RECEIVED IN C.O.
7 FEB 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
8/2.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential
Restricted
Open.

C.M.W.

*Draft.* Letter

Laurence Turner,
Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

(from:

The Minister of State)

Disp. 16/1.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th January, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of January 7th about the Arab refugees. I am glad to hear that some public interest is being aroused on this ~~important~~ urgent and tragic problem, and

~~2.~~ I attach a memorandum prepared in the Department, which I hope will give you the information you require regarding His Majesty's Government's policy on this subject. ~~It is, as you may know, coming up just now at the General Assembly.~~

Here in Paris - [Insert passage marked '*' on minute.]

H.B. 15/1.

(42023) WT.41304/225 150,000
2/51 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

Foreign Office,

S.W.1.

16th January, 1952

Thank you for your letter of January 7th about the Arab refugees. I am glad to hear that some public interest is being aroused on this urgent and tragic problem and I attach a memorandum prepared in the Department, which I hope will give you the information you require regarding His Majesty's Government's policy on this subject.

Here in Paris we have just had a week's acrimonious political debate in the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the United Nations, in which the Arabs have ostentatiously and ostensibly refused to consider any solution of the refugee problem except return of the refugees to their homes in Palestine, and the Israelis have refused to consider such return. This discussion should now be followed by that of the report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which proposes to separate the present plight of the Arab refugees from the political questions at issue and to provide all the refugees with homes and jobs elsewhere than in Israel within a period of three years. This will be "without prejudice to the refugees' rights to repatriation and/or compensation", so that if the political question should at any time be settled in the refugees' favour they could then return home. In reality the Arab States realize that few if any of the Arabs will ever return to Palestine, but they are of course unable publicly to give up their claim to this. But acceptance of the UNRWA scheme would not commit them to such renunciation.

Whether the UNRWA scheme will be accepted by the United Nations of course, one cannot yet say.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Selwyn Lloyd

Laurence Turner, Esq., MP.,
House of Commons.

P.S. The Secretary of State himself is very concerned about this matter, and we are doing all we can with a most intractable problem. Thank you also for your very kind words at the end of your letter.

(Itd.) S.L.

1. M/S to see Rwt 25.1 Enter
2. M.E. See.
28/1 24/..

HOUSE OF COMMONS

23rd January 1952.

FOREIGN OFFICE
24 JAN 1952

Dear Selwyn Lloyd,

I am most grateful for the trouble you have taken in the matter of the Arab refugees about which I wrote to you on the 7th inst. and I thank you most sincerely for the trouble and care you have taken in your reply of the 16th and the memorandum you attached.

Doubtless we shall all be meeting again next week for what I hope will be a useful Session.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Turner.

The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, M.P.,
Foreign Office.

INDEXED

E E 1824/8.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
30 JAN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/9

Various

— " —

— " —

Arab Refugees.

M.P.'s letters based on enquiries from constituents.

(N.B. new memorandum to be enclosed with reply)

**Last Paper**

(Minutes)

**References**

-/7

(A) Sir H. Williams, M.P. to Mr Nutting of 18/2/52.

(B) Sir H. Williams, M.P. to Mr Nutting of 25/2/52.

Cw 27/2

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

~~Sir H. Williams, MP for Mr Nutting~~ 22 Feb.

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
|---|---|
| Sw OMNIBUS 17/3/54 | [illegible] |

**Next Paper**

37021

TELEPHONE
ABBEY 7106.

1. Int Ack 19/II
2. Eastern Dept
(for reply from Mr Nutting).

FROM
SIR HERBERT WILLIAMS, M.P.
145 ABBEY HOUSE,
VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1

18th February, 1952.

Kurt Wilford
19/2

Dear Anthony,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have had from one of my constituents on the subject of the Arab refugees. I also enclose a copy of my reply to him.

I shall be grateful if you can let me know what is the present position.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Williams

The Rt.Hon.Anthony Eden, M.P.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

ENCS

E E1824/9

18th February, 1952.

Dear Mr.Hillman,

Thanks for yours of the 16th.

I quite agree with you that the position of the Arab refugees is most tragic. This country has, of course, already put up a good deal of money, but it is very difficult for us to provide money not only for things at home, but for things overseas because of the appalling balance of payments which threatens us with a major disaster before the end of the Summer unless we can correct it.

I am sending a copy of your letter to the Rt.Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P., which I think is the best thing I can do at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

J.A.Hillman, Esq.,
65A, Birchanger Road,
South Norwood, S.E.25.

Copy.

ADD, 4871.

65a Birchanger Road,
South Norwood, S.E.25.

16th February, 1952.

Dear Sir Herbert,

I have the honour to be one of your constituents. I am quite aware that you are a very busy man, and, that owing to our tragic loss last week business of the House must be getting behind, but despite pressure of work and the shortage of money some of us feel that something more should be done for the Arab refugees.

There have recently been a number of letters in the London Newspapers about this matter, one such letter in the "Times" on the 8th inst, points out the blank and terrible hopelessness of these people which will soon be politically dangerous, and I am writing as one of the many who are deeply concerned that something effective should be done for these most unfortunate people. It appears the matter is now being dealt with by the United Nations and we earnestly trust that you will press very strongly for Her Majesty's Government to give a very strong lead.

We should like to see U.N. Agencies making and carrying out a large-scale programme of rehabitation, costly though it may be, which seems to us much more hopeful than illusory plans for restoration of refugee Arabs to Israel. But we also hope that funds will be available for the assistance of approved projects in the hands of voluntary agencies which can often best supply that personal touch which the refugee so deeply appreciates. It also seems to us plainly unjust that personal banks accounts in Israel of refugees should be frozen and that compensation should be denied for properties that have been requisitioned and appropriated, or as we understand is the case with much property belonging to the Arab Churches, released from control should be refused. We realise that these matters are under consideration at the United Nations, but we would like to see the Government giving a lead by injecting a sense of urgency into these preceedings.

We are pleased to report that some voluntary societies are doing all they can. At the request of the world council of churches and the international Missionary Council, the churches Missionary Society has seconded Mr. Morrison, its Missionary Secretary in Egypt as the co-ordination of the whole christians international approach to the refugee problem in the Middle East.

My son, who is business manager of the Church Missionary Society's Old Cairo Hospital was loaned to the Gaza Strip as Medical

8

Supply Organiser to the Arab Refugees for 18 months, and during that time his wife, a neice of your old friend Mr. A. Sawden "Hillside" Wordcraft Avenue, Tipton, Staffs got going a Dispensary. The Church Missionary Society had a collection in London and 500 blankets were sent out in record cases. The wood was used for making shelves for the Dispensary. Of course all this was only like a small drop of water in the Ocean. When my son and daughter in law were in the Gauga Strip they had only their salary as if they had been in Cairo but when they returned to Cairo the man who took my son's place in the Gauga Strip was going to get £3. 500 p.a and the man who took my daughter-in-laws place was going to get £2,500 p.a.

I shall be very pleased to get any further information from Mr. Morrison, my son and daughter-in-law, or from the Church Missionary Society, 6 Salisbury Square but I trust I have been able to make my point of the urgency of this matter and hope you will be able to strongly press the House to have something done on an International basis.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. J.A. Hillman.

Sir Herbert G. Williams, M.P.,
145 Abbey House,
Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

Memorandum

Her Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the Arab refugees. They agree that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees to Israel and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. Her Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until the 1950-51 session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term work projects) to cover projects for the resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. Moreover, the problem has hitherto been tackled on a yearly basis. The 1951-2 session of the Assembly has now approved a three year programme, estimated to cost $250 million ($200 for resettlement and $50 for relief). The object of this programme is to make the refugees self-supporting as soon as possible by providing them with homes and work. If member Governments will offer adequate contributions (the United States Government have offered up to $50 million and Her Majesty's Government the sterling equivalent of £12.4 million for the current year), and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

It has been suggested that funds should be made available to voluntary agencies for the carrying out of approved projects. Her Majesty's Government are in full agreement regarding the great importance of the part which the voluntary societies can play in assisting the refugees and are anxious to give them every encouragement. The work of the voluntary societies is also greatly valued by the Agency, which has, where possible, given them material assistance. Unfortunately, however, the funds so far available to the Agency have been limited.

The question of compensation and of the unfreezing of refugees' bank accounts is a particularly thorny one. The position is that at the 1950-51 meeting of the General Assembly it proved possible, for the first time, to make practical arrangements for tackling this question. A Resolution of the 14th December, 1950, directed the Palestine Conciliation Committee to set up an Office with the task of making detailed arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation. This office has assessed the total value of

/abandoned

abandoned Arab property at £120 millions. The Israel Government have meanwhile stated that they are prepared to contribute to the settlement of the problem and to negotiate with the United Nations. It is hoped that the Palestine Conciliation Commission, whose existence was prolonged at the last session of the Assembly, will now be able to make progress in reaching a settlement.

Her Majesty's Government will continue to do everything possible to secure a satisfactory solution to the refugee problem.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
21st February, 1952.

Registry
No.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

C.M.W.

*Draft.* Letter to:

Sir Herbert
Williams, M.P.,
145 Abbey House,
Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

---

(from:

Mr. Nutting)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

22/2
22/3

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

February, 1952.

OUTFILE OC.

to the Foreign Secy

Thank you for your letter of February 18th, with which you enclose a copy of a letter from one of your constituents, and of your reply, about the Arab refugee problem.

2. The present position regarding this difficult and tragic problem is set out in the enclosed memorandum, which I hope will be of use to you. If you are sending a further letter to your constituent on the basis of this memorandum, you may care also to inform him, in view of his personal connexions with the work which the Voluntary Societies are doing for the Arab refugees, that the Foreign Office is keeping in close touch with the World Council of Churches and the British Council of Churches, ~~on this subject and greatly~~ and that we greatly welcome ~~appreciates~~ their interest ~~which they are taking~~ and ~~the~~ assistance ~~which they are giving~~ in the matter. Collections, such as that ~~described by your constituent, which~~ organised by the Church Missionary Society ~~has made~~ in London, although small in size, are not only of practical ~~value~~ use but are ~~greatly welcomed as a~~ a valuable token of goodwill from this country to the ~~unfortunate~~ refugees.

CW 22/2

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(acting)

OUTFILE

(EE 1824/9)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

22nd February, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of February 18th to the Foreign Secretary with which you enclose a copy of a letter from one of your constituents, and of your reply, about the Arab refugee problem.

The present position regarding this difficult and tragic problem is set out in the enclosed memorandum, which I hope will be of use to you. If you are sending a further letter to your constituent on the basis of the memorandum, you may care also to inform him, in view of his personal connexions with the work which the Voluntary Societies are doing for the Arab refugees, that the Foreign Office is keeping in close touch with the World Council of Churches and the British Council of Churches, and that we greatly welcome their interest and assistance in the matter. Collections, such as that organised by the Church Missionary Society in London, although small in size, are not only of practical use but are a valuable token of goodwill from this country to the refugees.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary)

Sir Herbert Williams, M.P.,
145, Abbey House,
Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

Eastern Dept. to p.w.

TELEPHONE
ABBEY 7106.

FROM
SIR HERBERT WILLIAMS, M.P.
145 ABBEY HOUSE,
VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1

E Dept.

25th February, 1952.

Dear Anthony,

Thanks for yours of the 22nd February (ref: EE 1824/() with regard to the Arab refugee problem.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Williams

H.A.Nutting, Esq., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

E 1824/9
UNDEXED

8

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE 1824/11

Major Legge-Bourke. M.P.

To the Waiting.

25. 2. 52.
6. 3. 52.

Arab Refugees.

Encloses copy of a letter which he has sent to the Arab Legion re. claims for compensation & repatriation from Israel.

**Last Paper**

**(Minutes)**

See minutes within.

CW 6/3

**References**

EE1091/16

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
| --- | --- |
| 3/3 | 28/4 |

**Next Paper**

37330

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

*Minutes.*

Eastern Dept
M.E.S.

Dept for entry

This arises out of the conversation Mr. Nutting had with Major Legge-Bourke on the latter's letter about frontier incidents.

Mr. Nutting would like to talk to Dept. some time about the present position regarding Israeli assistance to Arab refugees & the Israeli demand for a loan.

J. Killick

26/2

Perhaps M. Killick would let me know when it would be convenient to M. Nutting to see me on the refugee question? Someone from Eastern Dept should, I suggest, be present to explain the position re. the Israel loan.

M. Hunter. 26/2

M. Killick.

Perhaps

Minutes.

Perhaps both Mr Hunter and I could come along.

27/2

Mr Kilick.

Mr Wardrop, Mr Hunter & I saw Mr Nutting on Feb. 24th.

1/3.

5/3

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Rec'd. 26.2.52.

1. Mr. Nutting
2. M.E.S.

House of Commons,

London, S.W. 1.

25th February, 1952.

E E 1824/11

Dear Tony,

I am very grateful to you for giving me so much of your time on the subject of the Arab Refugees last Tuesday.

As I promised, I have written to Colonel Melville asking him to pass the letter on to Glubb, and I thought you might care to have a copy of what I have said to him. I dare say some of the things that I have said could not very well have been said by a Minister, and that you may disagree with some of my contentions yourself. I hope, however, you will approve of the general line of approach, which is that they really must, for the time being at least, shelve claims for full compensation and repatriation from Israel, and try and assist in every way possible with the solution of the refugee problem. At the worst, I hope I have not made matters worse than they are already, and perhaps something I have said may be of assistance. I hope so anyway.

Yours ever

Harry. (Legge-Bourke)

Anthony Nutting, Esq., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W. 1.

RECEIVED IN C.D.
- 6 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

House of Commons,

London, S.W. 1.

22nd February, 1952.

I have for some time now been coming to the conclusion that the continuing deadlock can only add to the miseries being borne by the unfortunate Arab refugees from Palestine.

I have recently had conversations on this subject with both our new Minister of State, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Anthony Nutting. As a result of these conversations I thought you would like to have, and I should be grateful if you would pass on to Glubb Pasha, the following points.

However justified the claim of the refugees and those supporting them, for complete repatriation and compensation, may be ( and I for one believe such a claim to be irrefutable), I can see no possible likelihood either of repatriation or of full compensation being offered by Israel within the foreseeable future. The one hope of getting anything done to ease the refugee situation seems to me to rest upon the Government of Israel and your Government taking joint action together with the United Nations Commission.

Believe me, I can well understand how very loth Arab countries outside Israel might be to absorb the refugees into their own countries, so long as they feel that eventually these people should be repatriated. As I have already said, the justice of their claim seems to me to be irrefutable, but what we are now discussing is practical politics and social welfare, and from discussions I have had I am of the strong belief that the assistance necessary both for finances and in order to deal adequately with this problem in the near future, is only likely to materialise when there is genuine goodwill demonstrated by all concerned.

The frontier incidents which have taken place over the last few years are truly horrible, and there is no doubt in my mind that they are having a bedevilling effect on the relief of the refugees. I have done my best to stress to His late Majesty's and Her Majesty's Governments that though allegations made by the Israel Government to the effect that there have been some infringements of the armistice by Arabs may be true, there have been many more proved infringements by Jews. But the culpability cannot possibly be equal. In the case of the Jews, they are examples of further aggression, whilst in the case of the Arabs they are, where they have occurred, either unintentional or the expression of a natural desire to reclaim what is theirs by right. In saying this I do not, of course admit that all the allegations made by the Israel Government against the Arabs are true.

I think I can truly say that there is a very real sympathy here in England with the Arabs. At the same time, the State of Israel now having not only de facto but also de jure recognition, makes it impossible still to treat Israel as an illicit state. Good relations with all Middle East countries must be established and maintained by Her Majesty's Government, and it seems to me that unless the refugee problem is settled as quickly as possible, these relations are not likely to materialise.

As I think you will have seen from what I have said, there is something of a vicious circle here in that whilst better relations between Israel and the Arabs and Her Majesty's Government would be conducive to a solution of the refugee problem, so also no one step is more likely to improve the relationship than a solution of the refugee problem.

I hope you will agree, however, that whichever sequence of events may be the correct one, there can be no possible excuse for any of the parties concerned prolonging one day longer than is absolutely necessary the misery in which the refugees are living.

I am writing purely personally and without any prompting from any of Her Majesty's Ministers to implore you with all my heart to use your good offices in this matter. I know some of the difficulties you are working under, and I think I have some idea of how I should feel had what has happened to the Palestinian Arabs happened to me. Resentment and a desire for revenge as well as for compensation and repatriation are perfectly natural, if not justified, reactions, but I am sure that you will agree that when we look at this matter as dispassionately as possible, none of these particular emotions at the present time or in the foreseeable future is likely to do anything other than aggravate an already lamentable state of affairs.

I hope by now that I have established in your mind the knowledge that nothing can ever excuse in my mind the enormity of the crime that led to the setting up of the State of Israel. I do not, however, believe that anyone is ever justified in holding such a view and then doing nothing about rectifying the situation. I have turned over in my mind over the past years ways and means of acting and advising others to act in a really constructive way, and I am forced to the sad conclusion that really there is no way of doing so which does not involve those who have already suffered so grievously shelving, for the time being at least, many of those claims to which they and I feel they are entitled on the basis of common justice.

Of all the factors most likely to obstruct really effective relief work, none I believe could be stronger or likely to prove more disastrous than that any representative of the Arab point of view should attempt to prolong the refugee problem in order to use it as a bargaining point with Israel. I hope it is true to say that no Arab has ever thought of doing such a thing, but there have been moments in the discussions that have taken place from time to time on this matter, when it has been impossible to avoid a suspicion that such is, in fact,

the case. I mention this here simply because I believe that the hope of a settlement rests very largely upon the goodwill towards and confidence in the Arab people that can be established in the minds of those most able to help financially and materially, and because obviously there will never be this goodwill and confidence so long as such a suspicion exists.

I must apologise for having written at such length, but the recent proceedings in the United Nations do give me renewed hope that there may yet be a happier outcome to the plight suffered already far too long by the refugees. I hope all those in whose minds the plight of the Arabs weighs so heavily will give these matters their urgent consideration and do what they can on their part to further the end which I think we all agree we ought all to work for.

If there are any others in addition to Glubb Pasha who you believe would find this letter helpful, I hope you will not hesitate to pass it on to them. I consider this matter very urgent and I hope you will treat it accordingly.

With kind regards,

H. LEGGE-BOURKE.

Lt.-Col. R.K. Melville,
The Arab Legion,
13, Upper Phillimore Gardens,
London, W. 8.

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/12.

Mr Hindle James, Cairo
→ Mr Wilford.

25. 2. 52.
7. 3. 52.

Notes on some aspects of the present Arab Refugee situation in the Gaza area.

**Last Paper**

**Reference**

EE18220/52/67 1951

(Print)

(How disposed of)

~~Mr Hindle James, for Mr Wilford 17 Mar (Under Flying Seal of Cairo P.L. No 103 18 Mar.)~~

(Action completed) [signature] 18/3.

(Index) [signature] 28/4

**Next Paper**

(Minutes)

I submit a draft reply.

[signature] 11/3

[signature] 14/3

See within

A Maj. Wickham to Mr Leishman of 7 Mar.

(Initialled)

37613

M.E. Secretariat.
Kurt Wilford
6/3.

25/Feb/51

CABLES.
"TURF, CAIRO"
TEL. 59577

TURF CLUB,
CAIRO.

C/O Secretary's Temporary Office
Gresham House, Sharia Soliman Pasha

E E1824/12

Dear Mr. Wilford

Referring to your kind letter dated 19th Nov 1951, & in view of the interest so kindly shown by the Foreign Secretary in a Memorandum of mine upon the Arab Refugee situation at Gaza, I now venture, upon my return from another tour in the Gaza area, to forward herewith some further brief notes upon the same subject.

We have, as you know been through some grim experiences in Cairo lately. On Sat: 26th Jan:, I escaped from the Turf Club by a matter of moments only; but then from my own flat near by had the grievous experience of having helplessly to be a spectator of that tragic episode of vile murder & burning. Soon after my building was also set on fire, & we spent fantastic hours in the blazing premises, with other buildings all around us in flames, & a howling & murderous mob everywhere

in the streets. It is a remarkable — & at times somewhat harrifir! — memory to look back upon!

With my kind regards
believe me

Sincerely yours
H. Hindle James

RECEIVED IN C
-7 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
10/3

## Some aspects of the present Arab Refugee situation in the Gaza Area.

Having just returned from a visit to the Gaza area of Palestine, I herewith briefly record the following aspects of the present situation there.

It was almost exactly one year since the last visits of my to this area (which I had first known at the time of the Battles of Gaza in the 1914-18 war) upon work for Aid to the Arab Refugees, some 2oo,ooo persons, who had fled there from Israeli aggression in 1948. In addition there are the Gaza townspeople about 65,ooo in number, themselves also rendered destitute from the same cause, although not technicaly considered to be "refugees" and so not entitled to United Nations Assistance, which makes their condition the more desperate.

Last year, as the outcome of an individual "drive" organised from All Saint's Cathedral in Cairo, clothing and blankets were distributed to about 7,ooo persons in the Gaza area. This year another similar drive was attempted in Cairo, but this time on a wider scale, and with the support of many various communities Egyptian and foreign. This drive had the approval of the Arab Superior Council, and H.R.H. Princess Fawzia graciously gave her personal patronage and support. Unfortunately abnormal conditions in Egypt during recent months made it impossible to launch all of the work for publicity which had been prepared. Nevertheless the Excecutive committee, of Egyptian and foreign membership, continued in being, and was able through continuing in cordial co-operation to achieve very considerable results, though of course short of what had originally been our objective.

I was invited to proceed to Gaza on Feb. 15th last, by U.N. aircraft, to discuss with the United Nations Organization at Gaza the methods for distribution of the clothing, blankets, and cloth, which our combined drive in Cairo had produced. This was satisfactorily arranged, and the actual distribution, after agreement with the Egyptian Military Governor, was undertaken by the United Nations authorities through the practical methods which had been worked out by them for local needs. A percentage of the supplies was allotted to the Gaza residents, and a small part for emergency needs of the Camp Welfare schemes. On my departure from Cairo for Gaza a cheque for L.E. 1oo was handed to me from the British Embassy to add to the funds of our Appeal. This generous donation has been passed through our Committee, and with certain other donations recently received, will be used for further Refugee Aid.

It was a matter of tragic impressiveness to find oneself again, after the passing of another full year, amongst these homeless people, their future seemingly as undecided as ever. For most, this has been their forth winter since being driven from their homes. I know that special warning was given to senior authorities early last year by U.N. administrators at Gaza that tentage, hutments, and clothing were all in outworn condition and inadequate for any emergency which might arise during winter. Statements publicly issued by various associations, in particular by the World Council of Churches after their conference at Beyrout, by the International Red Cross Society, and by the Times newspaper in London, have all during the past year again stressed the desperate condition of these Arab Refugees and the grave implications of this situation. I myself in the Arabic and English local press, and elsewhere, have at various times from the point of view of personal informal observation and contacts, ~~[illegible]~~ pressed, as far as is individually possible, the urgency of the situation and its local repercussions in Egypt and the Middle East generally. Since then the winter months have passed, and during these months a very grave emergency did in fact arrise. Violent storms of bitterly cold wind and weeks of torential rain brought the misery of these thousands of people crowded helplessly in the narrow Gaza strip to a climax of suffering greater than anything which had been experienced before.

Tents and hutments were entirely destroyed, and in spite of every effort by the local U.N. organization, shelter and supplies were quite inadequate to meet the emergency. Since then great efforts have been made to repair the damage, and great credit is due to the local U.N. organizers, and to the Egyptian authorities, who, I understand, co-operated with all energy.

I visited, during this recent tour, many refugee camps, and was taken again to see schools and hospitals. The T.B. hospital has been much enlarged and is a very fine achievement, of the greatest benefit. It was disturbing however to observe bullet marks both inside and outside the hospital premises which the building had received in the course of a recent frontier skirmish. The C.M.S. hospital in Gaza town still carries on ceaseless work, of great devotion and efficiency.

In the schools I was greatly impressed by the continued keenness of both teachers and pupils. In view of the increased hardship endured so recently by all categories of these refugees, this is a moving and significant fact. Nevertheless, all is very evidently not well in these Refugee camps. The old or elderly are becoming perhaps only increasingly apathetic and hopeless, but amongst the young people there is definite resentment and a desperate restlessness. This was made clear to me especially in talks with young men of college age, and some of the young school masters and "intelligentia".

Recent grave events in Cairo have not passed unnoticed, nor are there lacking in the Gaza area those agitators who try to make attractive an appeal to mob violence. Very serious possiblites exist. This danger does not grow less as time passes from year to year without any solution, or even any enheartening sign to give these people, destitute, homeless, workless, some cause for hope, and some objective towards which they can aspire. Surely a practical decision, powerfully implemented can now be devised amongst the authorities of the United Nations, and the Arab and Israeli leaders, to prevent, even at this late moment, some further disaster which may have repercussions through out the world, and can only do great harm to all concerned.

H Hindle James

25/7cl/52

African Dept.

F.Z. 8/111

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE
S.W.1.

Eastern Dept.

7th March, 1952.

MEIS E1824/12. (A)

Dear Leishman,

On the 26th February I sent you a personal statement about the riots in Cairo from a certain Squadron Leader Hindle James. I now enclose a further paper which I have received from him. Please do not trouble to acknowledge its receipt.

Yours sincerely,

H. Sidebotham

CW 12/3

F.J. Leishman, Esq., M.B.E.,
Foreign Office.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
11 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

# SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Premier Aly Maher Pasha, yesterday received a call from Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League.

Among callers yesterday on Dr. Abdul Galil el Emary Bey, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Supply, were Mr. Parker, Financial Counsellor at the American Embassy, the Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires, the First Secretary at the Swiss Legation, and Mr. Williams, Commercial Counsellor at the American Embassy.

A Solemn Memorial Service for His late Majesty King George VI will be held at St. Catherine's Parish Church at Alexandria tomorrow (Saturday) at 11 a.m.

A sum of L.E.100 for the funds of the United Arab Refugee Appeal has been handed by the British Embassy to Squadron Leader Hindle James on his departure today by U.N. aircraft for Gaza, where he is assisting at the distribution of clothing and supplies recently collected for the Arab Refugees in the Gaza area through the United Appeal. This Appeal had had the high patronage of H.R.H. Princess Fawzia, and the support of the Arab Superior Council for the Relief of Arab Refugees in Palestine, U.N.R.W.A. and the Egyptian and foreign communities in Egypt.

London, February 14.
ıd in the Stock Exchange

ıolding off ahead of the lon
ed tomorrow, Friday, for the fu-
I — and following the overnight

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Papier ..... | 808 | 820 |
| El Tawil Spinning & Weaving ..... | 750 | 725 |

## LONDON CLOSING EXCHANGES

Free rates (buyer and seller respectiveiy): London on: United States 2 7800—2.7825; Canada 2.7825—2.7850; Belgium 139.00—139.25; Denmark 19.20—19.48; France 986—988; Holland 10.57—10.58; Norway 19.98—20.00; Sweden 14.48-1/4—14.49-1/4; Switzerland 12.18-1/2—12.19; Switzerland (banknotes) 12.14—12.35; Netherlands West Indies 5.24—5.32; Germany (blocked marks) 18.00—18.50; Australia 125.00—125.50; Egypt 97.25—97.75; India 17.94—18.06; Jordan 99.75—100.25; Singapore 2/4-3/32—2/4-7/32; South Africa 99-7/8—100-3/8.

Free forward rates (one month): New York 1/2 to 1/4 cents premium; (two months) 1-1/8 to 7/8 cents premium;

# Example of faith

Sir, — Saturday, January 26, 1952, [redacted] a tragic date, of grim memo[redacted]o most of us in Cairo. I feel, however, that I would like to record one particular small episode which comes back vividly to my memory.

While we were on the roof of our burning building, suddenly out from the smoke appeared a pretty little Nubian girl, aged about six, child of one of the servants. She regarded us with a quaint smile, and seemed puzzled at some European ladies who were sobbing.

One of these ladies, perhaps a little annoyed, said: "Little girl, why are you smiling? Are you not afraid of the fire?"

The child, for a moment, gazed around her with big solemn eyes at the flicker of flames, then, with another funny little smile she said: "La, ana mush akhaf,... Allah mojud!" ("No, I am not afraid — God is present!") and with that she trotted off again through the smoke to wherever she had come from; leaving us startled, but, for a time at least, with a sort of calm upon our jangled emotions.

That little Nubian girl has in her spirit a message perhaps for all of us in Cairo, and possibly for the whole troubled world!

Yours, etc.,

Cairo, Feb. 8. H.H.J.

# TRAM LINES FOR SCRAP

London, Feb. 10.

The Government are [redacted] authorise the expenditure of £50,000 to reclaim London's disused tram lines for scrap. — GSS.

# WORLD-WIDE

# 'preventi

Lak

A WORLD-WIDE program for reducing the burden o vey published today by the Organisation.

The survey, "The Cost of by Professor Charles Edward emphasises that "prevention is

## Some aspects of the present Arab Refugee situation in the Gaza Area.

Having just returned from a visit to the Gaza area of Palestine, I herewith briefly record the following aspects of the present situation there.

It was almost exactly one year since the last of my visits to this area (which I had first known at the time of the Battles of Gaza in the 1914-18 war) upon work for Aid to the Arab Refugees, some 200,000 persons, who had fled there from Israeli aggression in 1948. In addition there are the Gaza townspeople about 65,000 in number, themselves also rendered destitute from the same cause, although not technicaly considered to be "refugees" and so not entitled to United Nations Assistance, which makes their condition the more desperate.

Last year, as the outcome of an individual "drive" organised from All Saint's Cathedral in Cairo, clothing and blankets were distributed to about 7,000 persons in the Gaza area. This year another similar drive was attempted in Cairo, but this time on a wider scale, and with the support of many various communities Egyptian and foreign. This drive had the approval of the Arab Superior Council, and H.R.H. Princess Fawzia graciously gave her personal patronage and support. Unfortunately abnormal conditions in Egypt during recent months made it impossible to launch all of the work for publicity which had been prepared. Nevertheless the Executive committee, of Egyptian and foreign membership, continued in being, and was able through continuing in cordial co-operation to achieve very considerable results, though of course short of what had originally been our objective.

I was invited to proceed to Gaza on Feb. 15th last, by U.N. aircraft, to discuss with the United Nations Organization at Gaza the methods for distribution of the clothing, blankets, and cloth, which our combined drive in Cairo had produced. This was satisfactorily arranged, and the actual distribution, after agreement with the Egyptian Military Governor, was undertaken by the United Nations authorities through the practical methods which had been worked out by them for local needs. A percentage of the supplies was allotted to the Gaza residents, and a small part for emergency needs of the Camp Welfare schemes. On my departure from Cairo for Gaza a cheque for L.E. 100 was handed to me from the British Embassy to add to the funds of our Appeal. This generous donation has been passed through our Committee, and with certain other donations recently received, will be used for further Refugee Aid.

It was a matter of tragic impressiveness to find oneself again, after the passing of another full year, amongst these homeless people, their future seemingly as undecided as ever. For most, this has been their forth winter since being driven from their homes. I know that special warning was given to senior authorities early last year by U.N. administrators at Gaza that tentage, hutments, and clothing were all in outworn condition and inadequate for any emergency which might arise during winter. Statements publicly issued by various associations, in particular by the World Council of Churches after their conference at Beyrout, by the International Red Cross Society, and by the Times newspaper in London, have all during the past year again stressed the desperate condition of these Arab Refugees and the grave implications of this situation. I myself in the Arabic and English local press, and elsewhere, have at various times from the point of view of personal informal observation and contacts, pressed, as far as is individually possible, the urgency of the situation and its local repercussions in Egypt and the Middle East generally. Since then the winter months have passed, and during these months a very grave emergency did in fact arrise. Violent storms of bitterly cold wind and weeks of torrential rain brought the misery of these thousands of people crowded helplessly in the narrow Gaza strip to a climax of suffering greater than anything which had been experienced before.

Tents and hutments were entirely destroyed, and in spite of every effort by the local U.N. organization, shelter and supplies were quite inadequate to meet the emergency. Since then great efforts have been made to repair the damage, and great credit is due to the local U.N. organizers, and to the Egyptian authorities, who, I understand, co-operated with all energy.

I visited, during this recent tour, many refugee camps, and was taken again to see schools and hospitals. The T.B. hospital has been much enlarged and is a very fine achievement, of the greatest benefit. It was disturbing however to observe bullet marks both inside and outside the hospital premises which the building had received in the course of a recent frontier skirmish. The C.M.S. hospital in Gaza town still carries on ceaseless work, of great devotion and efficiency.

In the schools I was greatly impressed by the continued keenness of both teachers and pupils. In view of the increased hardship endured so recently by all categories of these refugees, this is a moving and significant fact. Nevertheless, all is very evidently not well in these Refugee camps. The old or elderly are becoming perhaps only increasingly apathetic and hopeless, but amongst the young people there is definite resentment and a desperate restlessness. This was made clear to me especially in talks with young men of college age, and some of the young school masters and "intelligensia".

Recent grave events in Cairo have not passed unnoticed, nor are there lacking in the Gaza area those agitators who try to make attractive an appeal to mob violence. Very serious possiblites exist. This danger does not grow less as time passes from year to year without any solution, or even any enheartening sign to these people, destitute, homeless, workless, some cause for hope, and some objective towards which they can aspire. Surely a practical decision, powerfully implemented can now be devised amongst the authorities of the United Nations, and the Arab and Israeli leaders, to prevent, even at this late moment, some further disaster which may have repercussions through out the world, and can only do great harm to all concerned.

H. Hindle James.
25/Feb/52

Registry
No. EE 1824/12

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

*Draft.* Letter

From:
Mr. K.M. Wilford

To:

H. Hindle-James Esq,
Turf Club,
Gresham House,
Sharia,
Suliman Pasha St.
Cairo.

U.F.S.
H.M. Embassy
Cairo

No 103

11/3

11/3

Mr Wilford

MW 13/3

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
14 MAR 1952
10/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

Under Flying Seal to Cairo

OUTFILE

14/5
17/12

Thank you for your letter of February 25th and for the very interesting notes on the Arab refugee situation in the Gaza area, which you enclosed with it. ~~Please accept my sincerest sympathy for the extremely painful experiences which you endured on January 26th.~~

As you know, the Foreign Secretary fully shares your view on the great urgency of achieving a settlement of the tragic refugee problem. Although, as you point out in your memorandum, there has unfortunately been no progress towards a solution of the problem of the Gaza refugees during the past year, the prospects for the future are now, I am glad to say, somewhat brighter. At the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly a 3-year programme for relief and resettlement of the refugrees, costing $250 million, was adopted, and funds are now in sight (largely as a result of the offers made by the United States Government and H.M.G.) to enable a real beginning to be made with resettlement projects. If, as we hope, the ~~services~~ surveys which are now being carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, with the co-operation of the Egyptian authorities, in the Sinai Peninsula prove successful, it may be possible to settle some 50,000 of the Gaza refugees in that area.

Meanwhile the assistance which your Committee is giving to these refugees in the collection of clothing and blankets is a very valuable contribution to the relief programme,

/and

and I am glad to hear that it has proved possible this year to organize it on a wider scale. A further drive for the collection of clothing has also been made in this country, as a result of an appeal at the end of last year, with very encouraging results.

I am so glad to hear that you were fortunate enough to escape the shocking episode at the Turf Club.

CW 14/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

No. EE 1824/12 17th March, 1952.

OUTFILE

Thank you for your letter of 25th February and for the very interesting notes on the Arab refugee situation in the Gaza area, which you enclosed with it.

As you know, the Foreign Secretary fully shares your view on the great urgency of achieving a settlement of the tragic refugee problem. Although, as you point out in your memorandum, there has unfortunately been no progress towards a solution of the problem of the Gaza refugees during the past year, the prospects for the future are now, I am glad to say, somewhat brighter. At the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly a three-year programme for relief and resettlement of the refugees, costing $250 million, was adopted, and funds are now in sight (largely as a result of the offers made by the United States Government and Her Majesty's Government) to enable a real beginning to be made with resettlement projects. If, as we hope, the surveys which are now being carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, with the co-operation of the Egyptian authorities, in the Sinai Peninsula prove

/successful,

H. Hindle-James, Esq.,
Turf Club,
Gresham House,
Sharia Suliman Pasha,
Cairo.

successful, it may be possible to settle some 50,000 of the Gaza refugees in that area.

Meanwhile the assistance which your Committee is giving to these refugees in the collection of clothing and blankets is a very valuable contribution to the relief programme, and I am glad to hear that it has proved possible this year to organize it on a wider scale. A further drive for the collection of clothing has also been made in this country, as a result of an appeal at the end of last year, with very encouraging results.

I am so glad to hear that you were fortunate enough to escape the shocking episode at the Turf Club.

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E 1824/13.

1952

**FROM**

Mr Chapman-Andrews
BEIRUT.

*No.* 147.

*Dated*

*Received in Registry—* 12.3.52
13.3.52.

Parliamentary Question.

From Mr Myers.

Suggests suitable reply for the Parliamentary Question which has been put down for 17th March re. re-settlement of refugees.

**REFERENCES**

-/14

**MINUTES**

See minutes

(A) Bagdad tel. No 212 of 13th March.

CW 14/3

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
| --- | --- |
| 18/3 | 28/4 |

39318

EE E1824/13

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews.
No: 147.
12th March, 1952.

D: 8.15 p.m. 12th March, 1952.
R: 8.47 p.m. 12th March, 1952.

IMMEDIATE.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 147 of 12th March
Repeated for information to: Bagdad (for Knight).
B.M.E.O. (Cairo).

Your telegrams Nos: 206 and 207 - Parliamentary Question on Arab Refugees.

Following from Myers.

Knight is away but I am repeating your enquiry and this telegram to Bagdad so that he may telegraph his approval or comments to you direct.

2. Handford is now in Amman trying to negotiate with the Jordan Government for a programme of 12 million dollars with which it is hoped to re-integrate 5,250 families and to give work for 2-5 years for 4,300 men. However, when he left, reports from Jordan about the general attitude of the Government were discouraging and it might be wiser not to quote figures until the results of his visit are known. He returns tomorrow and if agreement has been reached I will telegraph further. Proposals are being submitted to Syrian Head of State who has agreed to give them careful consideration but nothing certain is known of Syria's intentions. In Sinai eleven wells have been sunk and no fresh water found yet but to emphasise the difficulties might be embarrassing to the Americans in view of President Truman's statement in his message to Congress on mutual security [grp. undec.].

3. Suggest following reply.

[Begins]:

"I would refer the Honourable Member to the information given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary on 28th November. The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution at its last session recommending expenditure of 200 million dollars for the re-integration of refugees and urging Arab states to cooperate in this programme. All Arab states

members of.....

members of the United Nations concurred in this recommendation. Since then, Director of UNRWA has been in active negotiation with the Governments of the Arab states and has submitted programmes to Syria and Jordan which are now under consideration. In Jordan the first projects include irrigation, rural and urban housing (latter for refugees with jobs but no homes) and some industrial projects. The programme also includes survey and training for larger, longer-term projects. Even before the last meeting of the General Assembly, the Egyptian Government agreed to the settlement of 50,000 refugees in Sinai if satisfactory water supply could be found. The geo-physical survey has been made and test boring is in progress on the most likely sites".

[Ends].

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department.
Middle East Secretariat.

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir W. Strang.
Sir J. Bowker.
Private Secretary.
Head of Eastern Department.

JJJJJ

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E

Cypher/OTP

EE 1824/13(A)

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Troutbeck
No. 212
13th March, 1952

D. 9.19 a.m. 13th March, 1952
R. 9.40 a.m. 13th March, 1952

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 212 of 13th March,
Repeated for information to Beirut and B.M.E.O. (Cairo).

EE1824/13

Reference Myers' telegram No. 147 of 12th March suggesting reply to Parliamentary question regarding U.N.R.W.A.

I agree.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

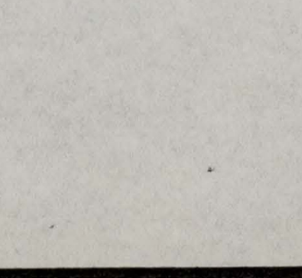
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir J. Bowker
Head of Eastern Department

777777777

CW 14/3



E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

E E 1824/14

1952

PALESTINE

F.O. Minute
(Miss Wakelaw)

12. 3. 52.
13. 3. 52.

Parliamentary Question.

Text of the P.Q. which has been put down for 17th March.

(Draft telegram to Beirut)

Last Paper

(Minutes)

see /13.

EN 14/3

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel) Beirut 206
R(S) BMEO 93(S)
12 Mar.

Tel) Beirut 207
R(S) BMEO 94(S)
12 Mar.

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
| --- | --- |
| 16/3 | 28/4 |

Next Paper

EE 1824/14

Registry No.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

EMERGENCY
~~IMMEDIATE~~
PRIORITY
~~ROUTINE~~
with / without priority
~~DEFERRED~~

(Date) 12/3/52

OUTRLE

Despatched 12.15 p M.

Draft.

Telegram to :— Beirut

No. 206.

(Date) Mar 12.

Repeat to :— BMEO (Cairo) 938 Mr.

No. Saving

En Clair.
~~Code.~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution :— Dept. (E. Dept MES)

Copies to :—

[Security classification —if any]

Addressed to Beirut

telegram No. 206 (date) 12/3

repeated for information ~~to~~ Saving to BMEO (Cairo.)

Following for KNIGHT.

Following Parliamentary Question has been put down for March 17th.

Quote: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what further information he has from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on action taken to resettle Arab refugees. Unquote.

2. Grateful for your comments and suggested draft reply by Friday morning.

Distributed to CW 12/3
Eastern Dept
Middle East Secretariat

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

10.45 am
12/3/52

(41381) WT.29195/220 125,000 11/50 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

RECEIVED IN C.B.
12 MAR 1951
SENT TO DEPT.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

clair and
By Bag

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

No. 206
12th March, 1952. • D. 12.15 p.m. 12th March, 1952.

PRIORITY

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 206 of 12th March.

Repeated for information Saving to: B.M.E.O. (Cairo) No. 93

Following for Knight.

Following Parliamentary Question has been put down for March 17th.

"To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what further information he has from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on action taken to resettle Arab refugees".

2. Grateful for your comments and suggested draft reply by Friday morning.

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

*****

Registry No.

CYPHER

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

EMERGENCY
IMMEDIATE
PRIORITY
ROUTINE
with / without priority
DEFERRED

OUTFILE

(Date) 12/3

Despatched 2 10 pm M.

Draft.

Telegram to :— Beirut

No. 207.

(Date) Mar 12.

Repeat to :— BMEO (Cairo)

94 Mr. Saving

RECEIVED IN C.S.
12 MAR 1951
SENT TO DEPT.

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :— Dept (E Dept MES.)

Copies to :—

[Security classification —if any] Confidential

Addressed to Beirut

telegram No. 207 (date) 12/3.

repeated for information ~~to~~ Saving to BMEO (Cairo.)

Following for KNIGHT.

My immediately preceding telegram.

We assume that we can only refer to Agency's negotiations with Arab Governments in a general way and that nothing specific can be said about negotiations with Syria.

2. We should like however to say something specific about Agency's plans in Sinai and Jordan.

Distributed to CW 12/3
Eastern Dept
Middle East Secretariat

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(41381) WT.29195/220 125.000 11/50 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

10.4 a
12/3/51

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

Cypher/OTP &
By Confidential Bag

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

No. 207
12th March, 1952. D. 2.10 p.m. 12th March, 1952.

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 207 of 12th March,
Repeated for information Saving to B.M.E.O. (Cairo) No. 94.

Following for Knight.

My immediately preceding telegram.

We assume that we can only refer to Agency's negotiations with Arab Governments in a general way and that nothing specific can be said about negotiations with Syria.

2. We should like however to say something specific about Agency's plans in Sinai and Jordan.

DISTRIBUTED TO

Eastern Department,
Middle East Secretariat.

m m m

1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/15

**FROM**

Mr Chapman-Andrews

Beirut.

*No.* 152

*Dated* 14-3-52.

*Received in Registry—* 15-3-52

Parliamentary Question of 17 Mch.

Additional material re an agreement for re-integration in Jordan.

R/J Bagdad.

**REFERENCES**

—/13.

**MINUTES**

This is satisfactory. We agreed, however, that it added nothing substantial to the draft reply to the P. Q.

[illegible] 17/3

[illegible] 17/3

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

**(Action completed)** [illegible] 18/3

**(Index)** [illegible] 28/4

39318

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E

Cypher /OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

EE 1824/15

Mr. Chapman Andrews

No. 152
14th March 1952.

D. 4.15 p.m. 14th March 1952.
R. 4.39 p.m. 14th March 1952.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 152 of 14th March

Repeated for information to Bagdad.

My telegram No. 147 and Bagdad telegram No. 212.

EE 1824/13

From Knight.

EE 1824/13A

I understand that Blandford has reached a general agreement with Jordan for reintegration plans on the lines reported in the above telegrams at a cost of 10 to 15 million dollars, though each individual project must still be approved by the government. He has no objection to this being mentioned.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

ADVANCE COPIES
Private Secretary
Sir W. Strang
Sir J. Bowker
Head of Eastern Department

-o-o-o

15 MAR 1952

# E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

1952

PALESTINE

E E 1824/16

Sir H. Knight
c/o Beirut.
to Mr Evans.

(AC. 182/1)
8. 3. 52.
17. 3. 52.

"Times" letters re Palestine Refugees.

Suggests that replies should be sent to these letters, either from himself or from the Foreign Office.

**Last Paper**

**Reference**

**(Print)**

**(How disposed of)**

(Minutes)

It would obviously be preferable that the UNRWA P.R.O should reply. If he is still reluctant to do so, would it be in order for Sir H. Knight (the F.O. representative on the Agency) or for the F.O. to reply?

We should reply, if possible, by Saturday's bag.

CWalker
19/3

News Dept
(The Standard.)

There is only one other letter, Feb 28th on this subject. If the UNRWA PRO won't reply then I think Sir H Knight should. We can forward his letter - but it should be signed by him.

John Hannard
19/3.

Mr. Blandford has now sent a letter to the Times (March 21) which covers this.

EJ Hughes
21/3/52.

Can you attach Mr Blandford's letter?

CWalker
25/3

News Dept

37613 Letter attached.

John Hannard
25/3.

CWalker
27/3
a

| (Action completed) | (Index) |
|---|---|
| ! | |

**Next Paper**

a good letter.

[illegible] 27/3

A "Times" extract of 21st March.

CU 28/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Enclosure

Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

[redacted] (AC 182/1)

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

CONFIDENTIAL

8th March, 1952.

EQ 1824/16

Dear Evans,

You will have noticed the various letters in the TIMES recently bearing on the Arab Refugees from Palestine.

2. I think it would be useful if UNRWA were to write a letters in reply giving what information can be given on the matter, for the more public attention that is drawn to the matter the better.

3. I find, however, UNRWA either loath or diffident about so writing to the TIMES. Would you like me to try and concoct any answers that I can and send them to you for sending to the TIMES from the Foreign Office P.R.O. or from myself (there are times when UNRWA's dilatory proceedings turn me Teeth TARENTINE)

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. KNIGHT)

T.E. Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
17 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
3/18

INDEXED

TIMES
21 MARCH

E 1824/16

# FUTURE OF PALESTINE REFUGEES

## FINDING EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSES

Sir,—The Bishop of Chichester writes accurately when he states that there has been no grant of $250m. by the United Nations for the new three-year programme for the Palestine refugees.

The vote of the General Assembly was rather a strong endorsement of voluntary contributions of that amount. In fact, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's needs for the first year of the programme are already 80 per cent. pledged, and a negotiating committee is actively at work to raise the rest as well as to obtain pledges for next year's requirements. The agency is confident that funds will be forthcoming as convincing opportunities to use the funds are demonstrated. Some highlights of this three-year programme may be of interest to your readers and provide an answer to Mr. Duguid's letter, which originated this correspondence.

The general objective is to move the refugees from camp-life and ration-lines to self-supporting employment and adequate housing. This is detailed as follows in the special report addressed by the advisory commission of U.N.R.W.A. and myself to the General Assembly: " (*a*) Helping refugees find employment where their services are needed and which does not conflict with the employment needs of nationals; (*b*) training refugees for service in fields where there is a shortage of trained personnel; (*c*) making loans to refugees to establish them in gainful enterprises; (*d*) building houses in and near cities, villages, or industries where jobs may be available; (*e*) creating rural villages in areas where land is available for cultivation; (*f*) developing agricultural lands through well-drilling, irrigation-works, access roads, and similar small works."

Participation in the programme will not prejudice in any way the refugees' right to repatriation to Palestine and to compensation. While the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission works away at this political task, the agency's new programme moves forward. Clearly, refugees cannot all find self-support and improved living conditions in their present locations. This is true of the 200,000 refugees in Gaza, of the 100,000 in Lebanon, and of the majority of the 460,000 in Jordan. While the programme is unfolding in Jordan to the maximum extent possible geologists and geophysicists are at work in the Sinai peninsula. The agency is exploring in other directions. Syria and Iraq are in this respect countries of great economic opportunity, should their Governments choose to cooperate in large-scale reintegration of refugees: discussions on these points are on the agenda for the days immediately ahead.

It is clearly intended that individual projects shall be economic assets for the host-country. It is confidently expected that the Governments' cooperation will ensure that such projects are properly related to broader national plans for economic development. Such are the signposts along the road upon which the agency hopefully begins to move. It is encouraging that the new $250m. programme was endorsed unanimously by the General Assembly. Such support from the Arab countries which are members of the United Nations, and from those Governments which have been generous contributors in the past, provides a promising point of departure. The immediate task is to implement the formula of general agreement in a manner acceptable to public opinion and refugee leadership. Rapid progress is now imperative if the United Nations are to renew their mandate and if contributing countries are to maintain their support.

If I may now revert to the letter of the Bishop of Chichester, it is indeed fitting that he should have called attention to the thanks expressed by the General Assembly and the agency " to the numerous religious, charitable, and humanitarian organizations whose programmes have afforded valuable supplementary assistance to Palestine refugees . . ." as our limited resources have not enabled us to provide the refugees with such important relief as clothing, for instance. A severe winter and our mandate, which places emphasis on reintegration, make such assistance more valuable than ever.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN B. BLANDFORD, Jnr., Director,
United Nations Relief and Works Agency.
Maison Unesco, Beyrouth.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E 1824/17

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

(Mr Sorensen)

17 · 3 · 52.
19 · 3 · 52.

Mr Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for information on action taken by UNRWA to resettle Arab refugees.

Mr Eden gave details of United Nations relief & resettlement programme for Jordan & Sinai peninsula.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

EW 24/3

Reference

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

20/3

(Index)

Next Paper

37613

EASTERN. EE 1824/17

## Parliamentary Question

49.

Lab

Leyton

* ~~61~~. Mr. Sorensen,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what further information he has from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on action taken to resettle Arab refugees. [*Monday 17th March.*]

ANSWERED 17 MAR 1952
REPLY ATTACHED.

The Agency's negotiations with the Syrian and Jordan Governments regarding the carrying out of the $250 million resettlement programme approved by the United Nations General Assembly have reached a delicate stage. The Director of the Agency is now in Jordan trying to negotiate a $12 million programme of short and long term projects, which could provide for some 50,000 refugees. In Syria the Head of the State has asked the Director to submit general resettlement proposals to him. His intentions, however, are uncertain. Since public reference to the attitude of these Governments might only serve to weaken the Director's hand in his current negotiations with them, the attached draft reply to this Question has been drafted in general terms.

---

C. M. Waterlow.

(C. M. Waterlow)
Middle East Secretariat

14th March, 1952.

What about other Arab Ports? Dealt with Answer amended
JG 15/3

We have consulted Sir H Knight (our representative with the agency) — please EE 1824/13 & 14 — and it is clear that it would not be wise to be more specific.

[signature] 14/3

East Dept. 14/3.
~~Sir B~~
Sir J Bowker
Mr Killick

R. J. Bowker
14/3

(176)

11 MAR 1952

## ARAB REFUGEES (U.N. RELIEF)

49. **Mr. Sorensen** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what further information he has from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on action taken to resettle Arab refugees.

**Mr. Eden:** Following on the United Nations General Assembly approving the Agency's $250 million programme of relief and resettlement, the Director of the Agency has been in negotiation with the Jordan and Syrian Governments. He has submitted programmes to the Governments of Syria and Jordan and these are now under consideration.

The programme for Jordan includes short-term projects for irrigation works, rural and urban housing (the latter for refugees with jobs but no homes) and industrial development; it also includes provision for surveys and training for larger and longer term projects. A geophysical survey of suitable areas of the Sinai Peninsula, where the Egyptian Government have agreed to the settlement of 50,000 refugees if satisfactory water supplies can be found, has now been completed, and test boring is in progress on the most likely sites.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
19 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
20/3

17 MAR 1952

DRAFT REPLY
TO
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
No. 61
(Mr. Sorensen)
OF
MONDAY,
17th March, 1952.

Following on the United Nations General Assembly's approval ~~of~~ ing of the Agency's $250 million programme of relief and resettlement, the Director of the Agency has been in negotiation with ~~the Arab~~ Jordan and Syrian Governments. He has submitted programmes to the Governments of Syria and Jordan, and these are now under consideration. ~~No information is at present available here about the programme for Syria.~~ The programme for Jordan includes short term projects for irrigation works, rural and urban housing (the latter for refugees with jobs but no homes), and industrial development; it also includes provision for surveys and training for larger and longer term projects. A geophysical survey of suitable areas of the Sinai Peninsula, where the Egyptian Government have agreed to the settlement of 50,000 refugees if satisfactory water supplies can be found, has now been completed, and test boring is in progress on the most likely sites.

Notes for Supplementaries.

Q: How many refugees have so far been actually resettled?

A: About 100,000 Palestinians have re-established themselves in Jordan. The bulk of these, however, were never in receipt of relief from the Agency. A further 1,000 have been resettled in Jordan as a result of projects carried out by the Agency. Further projects in

/operation

operation should lead to the resettlement of about 2,000 refugees.

Q: What contributions have been made by Her Majesty's Government and other Governments to the Agency's programme?

A: I would refer the Hon. Member to the reply given by ~~the Foreign Secretary~~ my rh F on the 4th February to the Hon. Member for Wembley North.

Attd.

The Lebanese Govt. is not concerned because there is no room in the Lebanon for refugee resettlement.

No information at present available about programme for Syria.

PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION.

## ARAB REFUGEES (U.N. RELIEF)

49. **Mr. Sorensen** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what further information he has from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on action taken to resettle Arab refugees.

**Mr. Eden:** Following on the United Nations General Assembly approving the Agency's $250 million programme of relief and resettlement, the Director of the Agency has been in negotiation with the Jordan and Syrian Governments. He has submitted programmes to the Governments of Syria and Jordan and these are now under consideration.

The programme for Jordan includes short-term projects for irrigation works, rural and urban housing (the latter for refugees with jobs but no homes) and industrial development; it also includes provision for surveys and training for larger and longer term projects. A geophysical survey of suitable areas of the Sinai Peninsula, where the Egyptian Government have agreed to the settlement of 50,000 refugees if satisfactory water supplies can be found, has now been completed, and test boring is in progress on the most likely sites.

17 MAR 1952

RECEIVED IN C.B.
19 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

UNRWA activities to alleviate the plight of Arab refugees in the Middle East; work of voluntary organisations including churches; interest by MPs in HMG contributions to UN plan. Code EE file 1824 (papers 1 to 17). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98504. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).